

### **Specification Amendments**

Please make the following amendments to the specification:

Paragraph begins on page 2, line 1 and ends on page 2, line 2:

[[ \$125,000 was spent on the aviation and labor costs while \$225,000 was spent on the pesticide chemicals. ]]

Paragraph begins on page 4, line 24 and ends on page 5, line 3:

Before connecting the tire caps 50 together, the spacer 40 is insertable into an opening 32 of the tire 30 (see also Figure 3). The tire 30 may be one of a variety of tires used on both consumer and commercial vehicles. The tire 30 may be made of a rubber or other elastomeric material, or be composed of a composite material including rubber. The tire 30 is substantially toroidal in shape, having a hollow inside 28 and the opening 32 in the center of the tire. A [[rim 34, known also as the bead of the tire,]] bead 34, to be disposed against a rim (not shown), surrounds the opening 32 of the tire. The bead 34 may be a bit thicker than the rest of the tire and is slightly curled. When the tire is used on an automobile or other vehicle, the bead seals the tire to the rim of the automobile.

Paragraph begins on page 5, line 26 and ends on page 6, line 7:

Looking particularly at the lower tire cap 50B in Figure 3, when the bottom 56 is disposed horizontally atop a surface, the two sides 22A and 22B of the base portion 54 are gently sloped, while the tire 30 is seated thereon in a horizontal position. By gently sloping the sides 22 of the base portion 54, the base portion 54 is more likely to seal against the bead 34 of the tire 30 than if the sides 22 had no slope. The sealing action of the tire storage system 100 substantially prevents access to the inside 28 of the tire, such that mosquitoes

will no longer find the tire an attractive breeding ground. The absence of mosquitoes will discourage the collection of rats and other vermin, as well as ~~[[shakes who]] snakes that~~ eat them. Further, the gentle slope of the sides 22 ensures that, during rainy conditions, water will run off any exposed portion of the tire cap rather than collect in puddles atop or inside the tire storage system.